

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2020

Sam Nunnally called the monthly meeting of the Fair Commission on July 16, 2020 to order at 6:30 pm in the Expo Building of the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

Roll call of members: Helen Keil, Pam Holmquist, Mark Carlson, Doug Wise, Sam Nunnally, were present. Jessica Treweek was excused.

Staff present: Mark Campbell.

Guests present: Tamalee Robinson, Lisa Dennison, Ryan Pitts, Drew Micah, Michelle Baker, Morgan Baker, Carol Olson-Erickson, Sharon Askelson, Pete Heyboer, Binion Cervi

Agenda approval: Mark Carlson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Doug Wise. Motion passed.

Past meeting minutes: Minutes from July 9th, 2020 have not been finished and will be reviewed at a later date.

Public Comment: Sam recapped last week and the importance of meeting every week. Youth education is our most important component of the fair. Sam called for public introductions and comment. Carol Olsen 4H They are trying hard to move forward. Pete Hyboer a Physician at KRH and Board of Health member, but is only attending as a community physician, expressed general concern in the medical community for continuing the fair and the safety by moving forward with large gatherings. Tamalee from Board of Health, expressing concerns and speaking about test results not getting back for 7-14 days and it would be very hard to control an outbreak situation. Hospital has faster tests but there is a shortage of supply and priority is a concern with the closeness of school starting. Exposure at the fair could stop school from opening up. Binion (from Colorado) here on behalf of Duane Kessler is present for any questions or concerns regarding the rodeo. Ryan Pitts, Chief of Nursing states he is attending to provide information, answer questions as an advisory role in a medical compacity regarding the hospital. Sam Nunnally explained inviting Ryan as a neutral voice and that KRH does not get enough recognition, No further public comment was heard.

Unfinished Business: Continue with the review of 2020 Fair Planning with Corona Virus considerations, the governor's directive –goes over break-down of changes of the Fair and the community was reviewed. Mark Campbell goes over things that have been cancelled, such as food booths due to their clubs and volunteers being of 60yrs and + and venerable during this time. These are The Bigfork Women's booth and the Shriners. The fair does not plan on adding anymore food vendors. Will continue working with the Health Department regarding the Party Pit limited plans, still developing checks and balances along with recommendations. Space out seating spots with 6ft separation before we do any capping or cancelling of that. Mark states sanitizing stations (60 of them) out and about the grounds, along with some additional seating, using the Shriners absent area and others this year. The additional seating space at Shriners will be 20x40 seating away for distancing. Ag Committee met on Tuesday and will move forward with a live and a virtual selling platform with Gardner's Auction. These sales will run simultaneously with each other. Masks will be required anytime youth members public gather in or grouping in the Trade center, at wash racks and dropping off entries.

Lisa Dennison updated on the current cases that are active, 27, and are considered infectious. Yesterday numbers were around 22 cases reported in one day and today was also another significant day with higher cases. Community spread is evident and rising, 170 people are being monitored and isolated right now.

There is a leader change at the health department and it doesn't start until Monday. Tamalee recognizes the fair board is working hard to make it work and that the fair is very important to the kids of our area and the community. It is also important for the community to stay safe and reopen schools. We just need to find the fine balance. They are having covid meetings once a day but board meetings once a month. She can call an emergency meeting at any time.

Sam asked if the boards decide to have a joint meeting, would it be beneficial or a possibility. Tamalee states it is a possibility and we could reach out to the medical community to attend also. Mark interjected any request for a special meeting be within next 10 days. Doug Wise does not want to jump just because of increases in cases but would rather like to have more time before a joint meeting, possibly next week. Helen adds to last week's 4H and FFA youth leadership phenomenal responses on yes, they will tend to business to participate. Helen has trust and faith in the youth leadership and knows we can count on them.

Mark provided an overview about the Beer Garden and Party Pit and other areas. The Beer garden is still a concern and is not a priority of the fair. What else have we not looked at and addressed? Will set boxes up and/or chairs with distancing rules of staying in your box or row, which will support the distancing. Starting to get into a lot of work without compliance assurance. General admission seating is still a challenge but we have taken 25% of our capacity. Is that enough? We need to make decisions and seek guidance from the medical field of what we need for the people to want or desire to come and still be safe.

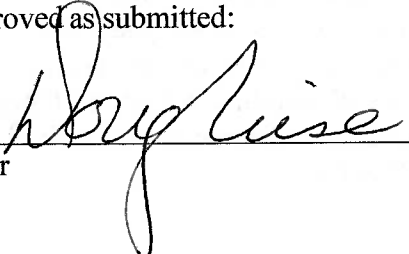
Doug Wise requests for continued attendance with the medical community and Health Dept.

New Business: Muttin Bustin with Justin Boots as the usual sponsor. Mark provided packets regarding the equipment usually provided and staff along with a request that we may need to cancel this due to not having the safety equipment for the children. Rodeo contract update and status: Butch is introduced and welcomed after retirement and he requests that if the rodeo is going to happen, make it the best, not some mediocre plan. Kesler Championship Rodeo contract is a 5-year contract. Family dynamic has changed and the rodeo business has been moved to another Kesler. Staffing concerns and border access were brought up by Mark Campbell. Mark also went over the Carnival sanitizing key points and distancing plans.

No other new business was heard.

Adjournment: Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM, seconded by Mark. All were in favor.

Submitted by: mc
Approved as submitted:


Chair

11-5-20
Date